



Exercise 1.6

What Would You Do?



Resource professionals are frequently faced with complex issues, but when they work in the interface these issues may seem especially daunting. By thinking through a variety of “what if” situations, resource professionals can better prepare themselves for challenges that they may face within the interface communities where they work.

Use this exercise as a way for participants to brainstorm action steps to work towards solutions to potential natural resource management problems in the communities where they work. Depending on the group, you will choose between *Handout 1: Public Land Management Scenarios* or *Handout 2: Private Land Management Scenarios* or a combination of both. This exercise is also a helpful way to introduce the other modules in this program. This is because many solutions to interface problems have to do with management, policy, and communication.

Objectives: Participants will be able to do the following:

1. Become familiar with critical public and private land management issues in the interface.
2. Identify several potential solutions to interface management issues for their own local circumstances.

Materials:

Handout 1: Public Land Management Scenarios
Handout 2: Private Land Management Scenarios
Flip chart
Marker
Paper
Cardstock
Scissors
Glue
Presentation 1.4

Time: 60 minutes

1. Explain the main purpose of the exercise to the participants:

This exercise gives us an opportunity to brainstorm potential solutions to a variety of public and private land management issues that are common in the wildland-urban interface. The exercises can also help us think of new tools and skills needed to be more effective in the WUI.

2. Make copies of the handouts, either on to paper or cardstock. If copies are made on paper, cut and paste the handouts on to the cardstock. Cut them into separate cards. Laminating is optional. You can also create your own scenarios, of course.
3. Divide the group into several smaller groups of 3 or 4 participants. **Presentation 1.4** has slides that can help you to present this exercise to your participants. Give each small group a scenario to work with. Allow them 30 minutes to read the scenario and come up with a set of action steps to deal with the problem. One group member should read the selected scenario and then each member should offer how they would deal with that particular scenario based on their local experiences.
4. Have the group select one set of action steps to present to the larger group, having them write those steps on a flipchart. Encourage them to be as specific as possible. The group should appoint a representative to present these action steps.
5. When the whole group reconvenes, each appointed representative should present their recommended action steps. Leave time for questions and discussion after each presentation. Following are some potential discussion questions:
 - What types of solutions are most effective for interface issues?
 - Which scenarios are similar to issues that you are facing? How are they different?
 - What other issues are troublesome in the interface?
 - What new skills and tools could help resolve these issues?

Summary

Natural resource professionals who work in the interface deal with new and complex issues daily. Discussions about the potential social, legal, and natural resource conflicts that resource professionals may encounter and how they might effectively handle these situations allow workshop participants to practice thinking about multiple sides of an issue. It can also help generate ideas about how to deal with tough problems and how to select the most appropriate solutions.